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TO AN ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated the 2nd February, 1914, for a copy of the proceedings and resolutions adopted at the last Interprovincial Conference.

LOUIS CODERRE,
Secretary of State.

QUEBEC, November 6, 1913.

Right Honourable R. L. BORDEN, LL.D., K.C.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

SIR,—In conformity with the request made by you and pursuant to a resolution of the Interprovincial Conference, I beg to send you, under the same cover, an extract of the deliberations of a conference of the representatives of the several provinces, held in Ottawa on the 27th, 28th and 29th October last.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) CHARLES LANCLOT,
Secretary.

EXTRACTS *from the Deliberations of the Conferences of the representatives of the several Provinces of Canada, held at Ottawa, on the 27th, 28th and 29th October, 1913.*

Were present:—

For Ontario—

Hon. Sir James Whitney, K.C.M.G., Premier.
Hon. J. J. Foy, Attorney General.
Hon. I. B. Lucas, Provincial Treasurer.

For Quebec—

Hon. Sir Lomer Gouin, K.C.M.G., Premier.
Hon. L. A. Taschereau, Minister of Public Works and Labour.
Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture and Roads.
Hon. P. S. G. Mackenzie, Provincial Treasurer.

For Nova Scotia—

Hon. G. H. Murray, Premier.
Hon. O. T. Daniels, Attorney General.
Hon. R. M. McGregor, Member Provincial Executive Council.

For New Brunswick—

Hon. J. K. Fleming, Premier.
Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer, Attorney General.

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For Prince Edward Island—

Hon. J. A. Matheson, Premier and Attorney General.
 Hon. A. E. Arsenault, Member Provincial Executive Council.
 Hon. W. Stewart, Member Provincial Executive Council.

For Manitoba—

Hon. Sir Rodmond Roblin, Premier.
 Hon. James H. Howdon, Attorney General.

For British Columbia—

Hon. Sir Richard McBride, Premier.
 Hon. William R. Ross, Minister of Lands.

For Saskatchewan—

Hon. Walter Scott, Premier.
 Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Railways.
 Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, Attorney General and Provincial Secretary.

For Alberta—

Hon. Arthur L. Sifton, Premier.

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Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that the Government of Canada be requested to consider the placing of the remuneration of the Lieutenant Governors on a basis more in accordance with present circumstances.

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Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference, the Government of Canada be requested to have the necessary legislation passed to change the title of the head of the Executive of each Province so that in the future he be designated under the name of 'Governor' instead of 'Lieutenant Governor.'

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Whereas under the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, and the various amendments thereto, the existing financial arrangements between the Government of the Dominion of Canada and the various provinces thereof are inadequate to provide a sufficiency of revenue to enable them effectively to provide for their expenditure, in consequence of the heavy and steadily increasing amounts required to be expended to maintain the efficiency of the services of their respective Governments, as by law provided, to promote the moral and material progress of the people.

Whereas the financial arrangements made at the time and since Confederation have never been regarded as final by the provinces.

Whereas, in 1867, the Provinces surrendered to Canada their Customs and Excise duties amounting to \$11,580,968.25, and received in lieu thereof the sum of \$2,227,942.11.

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Whereas, in 1913 the total revenue from Customs and Excise was \$135,312,143.67, of which the Provinces received only \$10,281,042.56.

Be it therefore,—

Resolved, 1. That in the opinion of this Conference an additional subsidy equal to 10 per cent of the Customs and Excise duties collected by Canada from year to year should be granted to the Provinces, payable semi-annually in advance, in addition to all other subsidies to which they are now or may hereafter be entitled, under the reserve of the right of any province to submit to the Dominion Government memorandum in writing concerning any claim it may have to larger sums than those mentioned in this resolution, and without prejudice to any existing claims or demands of any province.

2. That this additional subsidy be paid to each province, as follows:—

(a) There shall be set aside out of such additional subsidy an amount sufficient to pay to each province a sum equal to 50 per cent of the amount now payable to each province for Government and Legislature.

(b) The balance of such additional subsidy shall be payable to each province according to its population as ascertained from time to time by the then last census.

3. That in the case of the Government of Canada concurring in the views of the Conference as expressed in the above resolutions, a measure should be submitted to the Parliament of Canada at the next session providing for payment of such increased subsidies and allowances as may be determined upon, pending an amendment to the British North America Act, if such amendment should be deemed necessary.

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Whereas by the Imperial Colonial Stock Act, 1900, the powers of Trustees in the United Kingdom under the Trustees Act, 1893, have been extended and provision made for the investment of trust funds in colonial stocks under regulations to be made by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

And whereas the regulations in question were in due course promulgated by the Treasury, in the *London Gazette*, and are as follows:—

1. 'The Colony shall provide by legislation for the payment out of the revenues of the Colony of any sum which may become payable to stockholders under any judgment, decree, rule or order of a court in the United Kingdom.

2. 'The Colony shall satisfy the Imperial Treasury that adequate funds (as and when required) will be made available in the United Kingdom to meet such judgment, decree, rule or order.

3. 'The Colonial Government shall place on record a formal expression of opinion that any Colonial legislation which appears to the Imperial Government to alter any of the provisions affecting the stock to the injury of the stockholders, or to involve a departure from the original contract, in regard to the stock, would properly be disallowed.'

And whereas all or nearly all of the Self-Governing Colonies and most of the Crown Colonies, have taken advantage of the Act, and have passed the necessary legislation and have given the assurances that are required under the Treasury Regulations.

And whereas the financial position of the Colonies which have come under the provisions of the Act, has been much improved and their securities have obtained a wider market.

Whereas both as regards the prices realized by the Canadian provinces, on the original issue of their loans, as on the selling prices of their existing securities on the London market, other Colonies or dependencies of the Empire whether of equal or less importance in wealth or population are presently able to dispose of their issues at greater advantage, and their securities are quoted at much higher figures.

And whereas the Provinces of Canada by their Union have formed the Dominion of Canada, which is justly regarded as one of the most important portions of the British Empire.

And whereas the said Provinces of Canada have so far been unsuccessful in their endeavours to obtain for their stocks the advantages conferred by the Act of 1900, and they alone among the constituent parts of the Empire are, in consequence, prejudiced, and their financial interests adversely and seriously affected.

And whereas the securities of the Provinces of Canada are eligible for registration under the Colonial Stock Act, 1877, and amending Acts; and the necessary legislation can readily be passed to comply with the first two of the regulations that have been issued by the Treasury under the Colonial Stock Act of 1900.

And whereas the only difficulty in the way of extending the benefits of the Act of 1900 to the Provinces of Canada is found in the provisions of the third regulation.

And whereas it is stated to be held by the Imperial authorities that they have no direct right of disallowance so far as the legislation of the Provinces of Canada is concerned, and that the position in that respect, is therefore different to that obtaining in the case of the Colonies to which the provisions of the Act of 1900 have been applied.

And whereas under the British North America Act, the power of disallowance in relation to the legislation of the provinces is reserved to the Governor-General in Council; but the Provinces of Canada are, therefore, in a position to place on record a formal expression of opinion under the third of the regulations 'that any of its legislation which appears to the Dominion or Imperial Government to alter any of the provisions affecting the stock, to the injury of the stockholders or to involve a departure from the original contract in regard to the stock, would properly be disallowed by the Governor-General in Council,' or to take such other and further course as may be suggested with the view of meeting any objection.

And whereas if this assurance or formal expression of opinion is not deemed to be sufficient, the Provinces of Canada will be prepared to give favourable consideration to any suggestions that may be made by His Majesty's Government to the Dominion Government, in order that the Colonial Stock Act of 1900 may be extended to the stocks it may have already issued, or which may be issued in the future.

And whereas the Provinces of Canada cannot but believe that there is every disposition on the part of His Majesty's Government to extend to their stocks the benefits of the Act of 1900, if necessary and proper assurances are given in the spirit of the said Act, and of the regulations that have been promulgated under its provisions.

And whereas it also appears that under the provisions of the Imperial Statutes, known as the Irish Land Act, 1909, and the National Insurance Act, 1911, the trustees and commissioners appointed thereunder respectively are empowered to invest the purchase money and investments arising thereunder in any of the public stocks or funds or Government securities of any foreign government and in any securities in which trustees are for the time being, by law, empowered to invest trust funds, and that under the provisions of the said Acts investment in the securities of the Provinces of the Dominion is likewise excluded, the whole prejudicial to the interests and credit of the provinces.

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Be it therefore resolved that in the opinion of this Conference that the authorities of the Dominion Government be requested to submit this statement to the Imperial Government in order that it may be brought formally to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the consideration of the Government of His Majesty, with a view to the laws and regulations that have been made under the Colonial Stock Act of 1900 and the Irish Land Act, 1909, and the National Insurance Act, 1911, being applied—or if necessary amended, modified or extended to meet the circumstances, and permit of their being made applicable—to the securities of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

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Resolved,—That in the opinion of this Conference, it is desirable that the postal regulations of Canada be amended so as to provide for the free carriage of all provincial public documents, both sessional and departmental.

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On the debate respecting representation of the provinces in the House of Commons, it was moved by the Hon. Mr. Fleming, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Matheson, that in the opinion of this Conference the representation granted to the Maritime Provinces at the time they entered Confederation should be restored and rendered irreducible.

This motion was withdrawn.

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It was moved by Hon. Mr. Fleming, seconded by Hon. Mr. Matheson:—

That this Conference would favour and request that an amendment be sought to the British North America Act providing an irreducible minimum in the representation of the Maritime Provinces, and that the irreducible number of representatives be as follows: for Nova Scotia, eighteen; for New Brunswick, thirteen; and for Prince Edward Island, six.

This motion was withdrawn.

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It was then moved by Hon. Mr. Matheson, seconded by Hon. Mr. Fleming:—

That this Conference having heard and considered the special claim of Prince Edward Island for the restoration to that province of its original six members in the House of Commons as a minimum, deems that it should receive the favourable consideration of the Government and Parliament of Canada.

A debate having arisen thereon, it was

Resolved,—That this Conference expresses the opinion that, not representing the provinces for the purposes of this matter of representation, it declines to take any action in regard to it.

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It was moved by Hon. Mr. Scott, seconded by Hon. Mr. Sifton:—

That in the opinion of this Conference any action contemplated by the Dominion Government towards assisting in the carrying on of provincial works or obligations should take the form of an increase in the subsidies payable to the provinces by the Dominion under the terms of the B.N.A. Act.

A debate having arisen thereon, the Conference was adjourned till the afternoon.

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The debate on Hon. Mr. Scott's motion concerning any action contemplated by the Dominion Government towards assisting in the carrying on of provincial works and obligations, was resumed; and in view of the divergence of opinion which seemed to prevail amongst the members of the Conference regarding the subject matter of the motion, the mover and seconder considered it unadvisable to press the same to a vote and asked leave to have the same withdrawn. Leave to withdraw was in consequence granted.

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Resolved, That the contention of the provinces concerning the incorporation of companies having been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, after a reference to this tribunal at the instance of the Dominion, this Conference expresses the firm belief that the decision should be considered as final and conclusive, especially in view of the far reaching and disturbing impression created in the public mind by the doubt cast upon the powers of the legislatures in regard to this matter.

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Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to transmit to the Right Hon. Mr. Borden copies of the resolutions which have been adopted by this Conference.

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Resolved, That the members of this Conference desire to place on record their hearty appreciation of the attention shown them by the Prime Minister of Canada and his colleagues.

(Sgd.) CHARLES LANOTOT,
Secretary.

